

Cuddle Chronicle



Summer 2024

LETTER FROM NANETTE

Imagine the fear and confusion an animal feels when they arrive at a shelter. No matter how welcoming the staff or attractive the building, it's a strange new world filled with unfamiliar sights, sounds, and smells. Separated from their loved ones, lacking their cozy bed and favorite toys, these animals often feel scared and unsafe.

At Homeward Pet Adoption Center, we understand this fear. Since 2020, we've embraced the concept of Fear Free Sheltering, prioritizing the experience of every dog and cat entrusted to our care.



A commitment to Fear Free starts with education. Every staff member, including those in fundraising and administration, is Fear Free certified. The facility and activities have been adapted to minimize stress, anxiety, and fear. While some of these practices differ from traditional methods, we've made conscious choices, like reducing our animal population to provide more spacious living areas.

Why should you be dedicated to the concept of Fear Free Sheltering? Because it makes a difference. By reducing stress and anxiety, these animals relax, trust humans more readily, heal faster, and ultimately find loving forever homes.

You are vital in this transformation. You help create a haven where homeless animals can find comfort and hope.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these animals.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette McCann".

Executive Director
Homeward Pet Adoption Center

FEAR FREE IN ACTION – HOMEWARD PET DOG ROOM



In the early 2020's Homeward Pet was moving into its third decade of providing shelter to homeless cats and dogs... and still evolving. We were growing the Behavior Program to support our animals and embracing Fear Free Sheltering to help reduce the anxiety and stress that shelter animals experience. But the housing for our dogs was woefully

inadequate and outdated – chain link kennels, narrow aisles, a large, noisy room. It was time for a change.

In late 2021, we committed ourselves to doing better for our dogs. First, we met with Kay Joubert, ASPCA Northern Tier Shelter Initiative Director, and Dr. Wailani



Sung, Director of Behavior and Welfare Programs at San Francisco SPCA, to talk about the Fear Free design elements that would most benefit the dogs in our care. Thanks to grants from ASPCA and Amazon, and lots of individual donations, we were able to 'break ground' on

the project in January 2023 and the new dog room was unveiled in March last year.

The updated Dog Room looks great, but it's really about the positive effect it has on our dogs. Double-wide spaces allow them to stretch and play, and just be dogs. Smaller rooms reduce noise. Reactivity is lessened by reorienting the kennels so that dogs no longer face each other across an aisle. Even using the Fear Free color palette on kennels and walls contributes to lowering stress. And treat cups on every kennel mean a reward is always within reach.

The new set-up has been a life-saver for dogs like Bobby, an 8-year-old Bull Terrier who would have had an uncertain future being housed in our previous kennels, but is living well-managed and less-stressed now. And Honey, a shy 2-year-old Lab mix, who can be provided the space she needs by opening up the guillotine doors between 4 adjoining kennels.



Now it's time to give attention to the Cat Room. We have already taken some steps to create a reduced stress environment for our cats, but know that there is more to be done. With your support Homeward Pet can provide a Fear Free environment for all our residents.

BEHAVIOR CONSULTATIONS

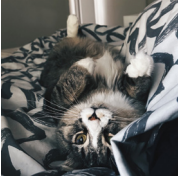
Like many other shelters in our area, Homeward Pet has been inundated with requests to help families who need to surrender their pets due to behavioral challenges in the home. Shelters are bursting at the seams, constantly having to choose between maintaining a manageable capacity in the shelter and being able to provide support to their community members.

In 2018, we committed to offering more services to our community, starting with free behavior consultations to anyone who needed help, whether or not they, or their pets, were previously affiliated with Homeward Pet. Our goal was to address this issue directly, helping families before they needed to surrender their pets, and ultimately keeping pets out of the shelter system. We started small, but with each success story, word of this free public service has now reached across the nation, with consults coming in from Florida, Ohio, and New Jersey just this year.

We know pets are a beloved member of the family and, if we can, we want to keep families together, especially if the challenge is something that can be resolved with a bit of professional help. But we also want to be a listening ear for the stressful situations, the tough questions, and the emotional decisions.

If you have questions about your pet's behavior, or you're struggling with a challenging situation, we are here to help seven days a week. You can learn more at www.homewardpet.org/behavior-consultations/ or email us at behavior@homewardpet.org.

HAPPY TAILS



"I really want to thank Homeward Pet for such a wonderful, tender, playful creature like our Buddy.

We never cease to rejoice every day at this fluffy bundle that helps us with everything, whether it's cooking, cleaning, or working on the computer. He loves lying on the laptop keyboard or on my notebook when I try to get some work done at home 😊. He also likes to sleep with his tummy up and yawns very funny.

He has stolen our hearts! He's the best boy in the world!"

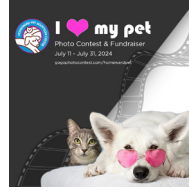


"Red is adjusting to our home well. He gets the zoomies in the house and leaps in the air from couch to couch (it's impressive!), he pushes clothes off the bed for some reason, he loves everyone

he meets, hopes someday to catch a squirrel, and loves homemade frozen treats with blueberries. He's still learning to play with the plethora of toys at his disposal.

We love his goofy personality & his gentle nature. Thanks for being there for him. We will continue to keep him safe & loved!"

UPCOMING EVENTS



I love my Pet Photo Contest and Fun-draiser
<https://www.gogophotocontest.com/homewardpet>

July 11 through July 31, 2024
 Start taking and collecting your favorite photos. Upload and garner votes between Thursday, July 11, and Wednesday, July 31, to raise funds that provide direct support to the dogs and cats in our care.



Lollipop Guild – Team Fundraising
<https://www.homewardpet.org/events/5k>

In conjunction with our 5K Run Walk, you can now take "Sweet Steps for Homeless Pets" as a member of the Lollipop Guild. Create your own teams or participate individually. Set goals and earn prizes as you introduce Homeward Pet to friends while raising valuable funds that directly support the animals. Whether you participate in the 5k or join us virtually, you will make an impact and have some fun!



There's No Place Like Home 5K Run/Walk
<https://www.homewardpet.org/events/5k>

September 14, 2024
 A family-themed 5k benefiting the pets and programs of Homeward Pet. Join us at Wilmot Gateway Park in Woodinville for fun activities before the timed 5k, then visit vendors and partners afterward. Register today!

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please email alora@homewardpet.org for more information.

LONGEST RESIDENTS



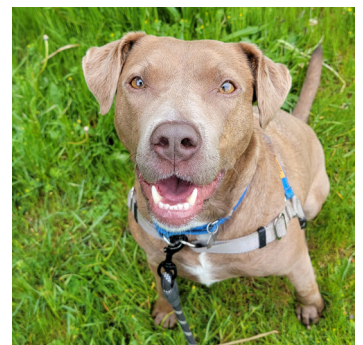
Hank – 332 days



Bobby – 178 days



Marina – 166 days



Honey – 160 days

INSIDE THE NUMBERS 2024 YEAR TO DATE



Shelter Adoptions	
Dogs	120
Cats	304
Shelter Intakes	
Dogs	150
Cats	367
Animals helped through Whoopi's Fund	
Dogs	51
Cats	97
Volunteer hours	19,568
Number of Active Volunteers	643 <small>(volunteers with service in 2024)</small>
Food Bank	
Dry food donated to HPAC	8,338 lbs
Cans of food donated to HPAC	3,554
Dry food donated to the Community	6,807 lbs
Cans of food donated to the Community	2,815

SPECIALIZED CARE FOR OUR CATS

Jonesy arrived at Homeward Pet last month as a transfer from one of our partner organizations. They were overcrowded, so we offered to take this sweet cat to lessen their load. He only had one eye, and limited vision in that eye, but that didn't stop him from approaching people with joy and lots of happy feet biscuits. And honestly, his look just made him that much cuter.



Unfortunately, what we didn't know until it was too late was that something about the transfer process really scared Jonesy. While in his carrier on the drive over, he panicked, scratching so hard at the sides of his carrier that he ripped out all his front nails. We had never seen anything like this before, so we needed to come up with a specialized plan to ensure we could successfully send him to his new home safely and as stress-free as possible.

We didn't want to immediately put him in another small, confined kennel space upon his arrival, so we had to move some cats around to provide him with a private room where he could decompress and feel safe. Jonesy stayed with us in that room, much longer than the average cat, while we figured out what to do next. After weeks of harness training and working on helping him feel safe in a soft carrier, we were able to confidently send him home with a volunteer who had fallen in love with him during his stay.



We are so grateful that we had the space to work with Jonesy through this unique challenge, but we had to act quickly and make a lot of accommodations to our space to be successful. Ultimately, this led to a bit of additional stress for some of our cats, impacting the quality of their shelter stay.

We need your support to make some major updates to our current Cat Room - creating more spaces like the one that helped Jonesy. These updates will help us continue a high-level of care for all our cats going forward, without having to make tough decisions that may be detrimental to the other animals in our care.

Your donation today makes possible the critical renovations we need to make to the space. This includes purchasing new state-of-the-art kennels, repairing and painting old, damaged walls, and continuing to create the Fear Free environment we plan to provide to all of our animals.

***Please use the enclosed envelope to donate today.
Or donate online at homewardpet.org/donate-now.***

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook (@homewardpet) - 23,000 Followers

Instagram (@homeward_pet) - 7,045 Followers

YouTube (@homewardpet) - 121 Subscribers

TikTok (@homewardpet) - 260 Followers

Linked In (linkedin.com/company/homeward-pet-adoption-center) - 826 Followers

Next Door (nextdoor.com/pages/homeward-pet-adoption-center-woodinville-wa) - 227 Faves

Please consider giving us a good review on Yelp and Google Business.